

Commander's Call Topics



Jan. 14, 2011

"Today's Airmen are receiving first-hand combat experience very, very early in their careers. To me, that's a huge challenge. That is going to formulate the way they lead in the future, and we have to give them the other elements of leadership -- education and training -- to couple with that combat experience."

– Chief Master of the Air Force James. A. Roy from remarks during a [visit to Tinker AFB, Okla.](#)

► CURRENT ISSUES

Chairman calls for military self-examination

As the military enjoys tremendous support from the American people, Navy Adm. Mike Mullen, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said now is the time to step back, assess the impact of 10 years of war and ensure the institution remains on course. He emphasized that he has no reason to believe the military has deviated dramatically from its "true compass," but urged leaders to act now to take stock of gradual organizational changes.

Defense Department officials to prune senior ranks, freeze staffing

The department will eliminate more than 100 general officer and flag officer positions from the 900 it currently authorizes. Defense officials also will eliminate nearly 200 of the 1,400 civilian positions from the department's senior executive service or equivalent positions. As department officials prune the senior ranks, they also will put a check on overall staff numbers by freezing the number of employees at current levels for the next three years.

► PERSONNEL ISSUES

Survey will assess Air Force community well-being

Invitations to take the 2011 Air Force Community Assessment will be sent out Jan. 25. Topics will include personal and family adjustment, individual and family adaptation, community well-being, deployment, resiliency, post-traumatic stress and help-seeking stigma. The assessment is designed to assist chaplains and people working in installation-level family and health programs to better meet the needs of service members and their families. This survey is not to be confused with the Caring for People Survey which ended on Dec. 31 and assessed quality of life and base support programs.

Combat rescue, special tactics officer bonus still available

For the second year in a row, qualified special operations officers are still eligible for a maximum of \$80,000 in critical skills retention bonus money if they voluntarily extend their active-duty service commitment for up to four years. For more information on CSRB qualifications, visit the [Air Force personnel services website](#).

Air Force officials announce formal officer cross-flow program

In an effort to balance officer skills across the active-duty component, the Air Force will offer cross-flow options for nonrated line officers in specified career fields. The application window opens Jan. 10 and closes Jan. 31. Eligible officers in overmanned career fields will be able to retrain into undermanned career fields. For more information about cross-flow opportunities, visit the [Air Force personnel services website](#).

Rated requirement lifted for air liaison officers

Air Force officials announced the removal of the air liaison officer rated requirement, allowing any company grade officer, accession candidate or enlisted Airman the possibility of a career change. ALOs, once drawn strictly from fighter, bomber and air battle manager communities, now have the opportunity to apply to join the critically-manned career field in which they act as primary air power advisers to Army ground commanders. For more information, e-mail the career functional manager at A3O-AYJ.workflow@pentagon.af.mil.

Air Force officials caution against geotags, location-based services

Geotagging adds geographical identification to photographs, video, websites and SMS messages. Whether global contingency operations are classified or non-classified, the missions may still be sensitive in nature and Airmen should not tag uploaded photos with their locations. For more information, see the top 10 tips for social media on page 17 of the ["Social Media and the Air Force" handbook](#).

GUARD AND RESERVE

[Air Guard, Reserve officials announce 2011 teen leadership summits](#)

The Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard Teen Leadership Summit locations this summer are in Dahlgren, Ga.; Estes, Colo.; and Washington. The summits combine high-adventure activities with leadership classes. Teens with a parent in the Air Force Reserve or ANG can attend one of the free summits. April 8 is the application deadline. Participants must be 14 to 18 years old. Application instructions are available at www.georgia4h.org/AFRANGTeenSummit.

CIVILIAN

[Defense official outlines pay freeze details](#)

Defense Department civilian employees affected by the federal pay freeze for 2011 and 2012 will still have the opportunity to receive performance awards, promotions and normal longevity increases.

FAMILY, HEALTH AND SAFETY

[Base exchange rewards those who 'Made the Grade'](#)

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service "You Made the Grade" program recognizes students who achieve a "B" average or better with a benefits-filled booklet including free food, video rental and more. Qualifying students can also register for a drawing to win a savings bond worth up to \$5,000 by filling out and mailing an included entry form. Military families can contact their local exchange or visit www.shopmyexchange.com for more information.

[Health plan to remain free for troops, officials emphasize](#)

Though Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates seeks modest premium increases for working-age military retirees who use the TRICARE Prime health plan, the benefit will remain free to service members.

RESOURCES

AF.mil

<http://www.af.mil>

Airman magazine

<http://www.airmanonline.af.mil/>

Air Force Community

<http://www.afcommunity.af.mil/>

Air Force Outreach

<http://www.afoutreach.af.mil/>

Military OneSource

<http://www.militaryonesource.com/>

Military HOMEFRONT

<http://www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil/>

Air Force Personnel Center

<http://gum.afpc.randolph.af.mil/>

<http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/>

Air Reserve Personnel Center

<http://www.arpc.afrc.af.mil/>

Department of Defense

<http://www.defense.gov>

Department of Defense News

<http://www.defenselink.mil>

TRICARE

<http://www.tricare.mil>

U.S. Government Web site

<http://www.firstgov.gov/>

Employment Opportunities

www.usajobs.com

www.nafjobs.org

AIR FORCE HERITAGE TO HORIZONS

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - Jan. 17, 2011

This federal holiday honors the life and legacy of the civil rights leader, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Established in 1983, and first observed in 1986, the holiday is observed the third Monday in January each year, near the time of King's birthday, January 15.

This Week in Air Force History

Jan. 15, 1957 – B-52 tail gunner, Airman 1st Class Eugene Preiss, is the first enlisted person to fly around the world backwards. He was aboard a B-52 on a mission called "Operation Power Flite" to showcase the endurance of the B-52. He received the Distinguished Flying Cross for his participation on the flight that lasted 40 hours and 10 minutes.

Jan. 16, 1991 – Senior Airman Lisa Wilson became the first enlisted woman to fly in a combat situation on an EC-130 when the aircraft departed for Iraq from a forward location. Although the majority of the night mission remains classified, the crew returned early the next morning.

Jan. 17, 1991 – The 2nd Bomb Wing launched B-52Gs from Barksdale Air Force Base, La., to the Iraqi combat zone, where they launched 35 cruise missiles on Jan. 17 against targets in Iraq and returned to Barksdale. This flight was the longest bombing mission in history to date. The war against Iraq started.

Jan. 17, 1991 - Capt Jon K. Kelk shot down a MiG-29 with an AIM-7 missile in the vicinity of Mudaysis, Iraq. Captain Kelk was a 58th Tactical Fighter Squadron F-15C pilot assigned to the 33rd Tactical Fighter Wing (Provisional).

Jan. 18, 1905 – The Wright Brothers opened negotiations with the government for procurement of one airplane.

Jan. 18, 1971 – Tech. Sgt. Leroy Wright received the Air Force Cross for the rescue attempt at Son Tay POW camp on Nov. 21, 1970. During the failed rescue he broke his ankle when the HH-3 helicopter landed hard. Despite danger of the helicopter exploding he ensured his entire crew was safely away before departing the aircraft and then led the Army combat troops advance towards their target.

Jan. 20, 1928 – President Calvin Coolidge presented the first Cheney Award to Master Sgt. Henry A. Chapman, 19th Airship Company, for bravery during the Roma airship disaster Feb. 21, 1922. It was the nation's worst air disaster up to that time.

For more information on Air Force heritage, visit <http://www.airforcehistory.af.mil>.

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